

University of Alaska Southeast

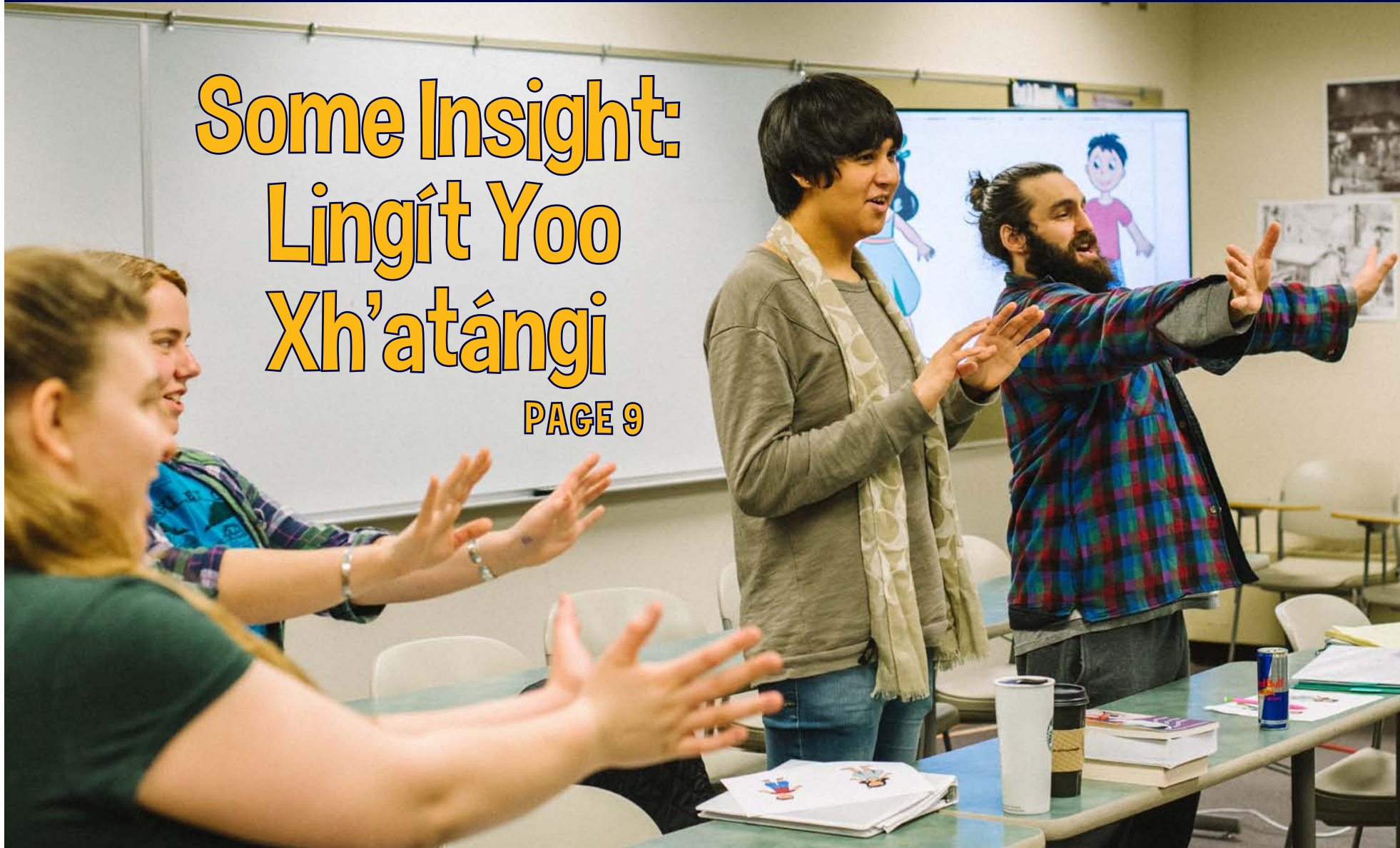
WHALE SONG

March 9 - 22, 2015

The Official Student Newspaper of UAS

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ON THE COVER...

Students in Professor Xh'unei Lance Twitchell's Beginning Tlingit class are learning the words for different body parts and practicing possessive pronouns. To learn more about the Tlingit Language program here at UAS, turn to page 9!

(Photograph by Darin Donohue)

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WHALESONG STAFF

Alexa Cherry, Staff Writer

Darin Donohue, Staff Photographer

Lori Klein, Faculty Advisor

Jasmine Mattson-Wolff, Staff Writer

Daniel Piscoya, Staff Writer and Advertising Manager

Chrystal Randolph, Managing Editor

Contact us via email at whalesong@uas.alaska.edu



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— UAS Answers — Everybody's got one ...

What are you doing for fun this Spring Break?



"I'm excited to be headed back home to visit all of my family!"
-Anne Prysunka



"I really want to walk to the glacier with my dog during the break!"
-Rebekah Haskell



"Put simply... I'll be walking into Mordor. AKA, hanging out at home."
-Brittany Emerick



"I'll be finishing my last album I've been working on, and also start on my new one."
-Josh Laboca



"I'll be visiting Skagway!"
-Oliver Coleman



"I'll be home and working during our break."
-Reylyn Peralta

— UAS in Brief —

Surviving College When You're Sick

Over the last couple of weeks, people have mysteriously gone missing from my classes. One of my teachers even cancelled class because they weren't feeling well. My friends would complain of a headache or a sore throat one day, and the following morning they would be coughing and continuously blowing their nose just so they could keep breathing! My roommate was one of the few who had fallen ill and while she is feeling better now, she is still waiting for her voice to come back.

Amidst our hectic, college student schedules it's extremely important that we remember to take care of ourselves. I know this is a busy point in the semester with midterms wrapping up, but even as your working on papers and projects you should be working toward staying healthy. Make sure you're getting the right vitamins and nutrients from your diet and get a good amount of sleep every night. I've begun to feel a little under the weather recently, but I am determined to fight these cold symptoms to the best of my ability by drinking healthy doses of Emergen-C® and taking the time to properly rest after a long day! Just doing these simple things can help prevent you from catching one of the bugs floating around campus.

Finally, if you're really feeling sick, please don't suffer in silence! Communicate with your teachers—let them know what's going on and that you'll have to miss their class. They will understand and they will take the news much better than if you had just skipped without saying anything!

We'll all be released for Spring Break in a mere matter of days, so let's stay healthy in the meantime!

-Chrystal Randolph, Managing Editor of the Whalesong



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— Meals in a Mason Jar —

BY JASMINE MATTSON-WOLFF, Kóot Xheech

For the UAS Whalesong

Did you folks know that John L. Mason was the one who invented and patented this wonderful jar in 1858? People have been all about the Mason jars from the start because they are a reliable way to preserve food. Most old Mason jars are famously embossed with “Mason’s Patent Nov. 30th 1858,” even though Mason’s patent expired in 1879. Mason didn’t end up making a fortune off of his invention; he actually ended up dying broke in New York City in 1902. Going off of that, who cares if we die broke like Mason someday? Let’s just make a pact right now to use his invention to the best of our ability and ensure we die full and satisfied! Without further ado, I’d like to share how simple it is to pack food for your busy day into a Mason jar! I’ve found using Mason jars to pack my food is an efficient way to be prepared for the day—but don’t just take my word for it! Here are some Mason jar recipes you can try:

Overnight Oatmeal

1/4 to 1/3 c. quick rolled oats
1 Tbsp. chia seeds
2 Tbsp. Greek yogurt (optional)
3/4 c. almond milk
1/8-1/4 c. of nuts
1/2 a banana or apple
1-2 tsp. cinnamon (optional)
1/2-1 Tbsp. honey (optional)
1-2 Tbsp. almond butter (optional)

This is an awesome baseline recipe because you can do anything with it to fit your taste preferences! Mix the quick rolled oats and chia seeds in the bottom of a Mason jar. Add the Greek yogurt or use regular yogurt if that’s your preference! Pour in the almond milk or feel free to substitute it with your favorite type of milk. Proceed to add the walnuts, pecans, sliced almonds, etc. whatever nuts you happen to have on hand! Add the banana or apple slices into the mix. You can add in other fruits and berries too, or leave out the fruit altogether if you want! Feel free to mix in some cinnamon, honey, or almond butter to add an extra burst of flavor to your oatmeal. Sometimes it’s fitting to add more milk at the end of the process to cover everything and ensure that the oats and chia seeds have something to absorb. After all that’s done, stir up your ingredients, put a lid on that Mason jar, and pop it in the fridge! When you wake up the next morning your overnight oats will be ready to grab and go!



Packing a portable meal into a Mason jar is simpler than you may think! There are recipes you can take to-go for breakfast, lunch, and dinner!

(Photograph by Jasmine Mattson-Wolff)

Green Smoothie

1/2 c. almond milk
1 c. spinach
1 banana
1/2 an apple
1/2 c. of pineapple

Using some kind of blender, liquefy the spinach with the almond milk (or any other liquid base). Then add the soft fruit ingredients of your choice, such as the left over banana or apple from your overnight oatmeal! You can also blend in some frozen fruit. Depending on your flavor preferences you can add cinnamon, cayenne pepper, ginger, lemon, honey, vanilla, etc. Blend all of that together and you have a smoothie ready to pour into a Mason jar! But don’t forget to taste test before you put it in your jar! You don’t want to head off for the day and find out you’ve made a funky tasting smoothie for lunch. If you are looking for an immune boost, you can try adding Nature’s Flu Shot to this recipe!

Nature’s Flu Shot

Juice from 6 fresh lemons
1 bulb garlic
2 tsp. ginger powder
2 Tbsp. honey
3 c. pineapple juice
1/4 tsp. cayenne powder
Blend all these ingredients thoroughly and store in a glass jar.

Mason Jar Salad

1/4 of a green apple
2-3 radishes
1 stock of celery
1/3 c. walnuts
3 c. mixed greens

The secret to preparing a great Mason jar salad lies in how you layer the ingredients! Improper layering can lead to soggy or squished veggies, which make for a not-so-satisfying lunch! Fortunately, the guidelines to layering a delicious salad are pretty simple! First, the dressing should go in the bottom of the large wide mouth Mason jar. The next thing to add would be the heavier ingredients, like the sliced green apple, radishes, and celery. Then you can add the walnuts to the mix. Put your favorite mixed greens on top. Seal the jar and refrigerate until meal time! When you’re ready to eat your salad, pour the ingredients into a bowl and enjoy. If the dressing thickened and won’t come out of the jar, add 1 Tbsp. warm water and shake. The dressing should thin out and cooperate after that. Please note, this recipe is for layering in one of the much larger Mason jars! If you have a smaller pint sized one, I’d suggest scaling down the ingredient amounts and I’m sure it will turn out great! If you’re up to the challenge, you can even try making your own salad dressing in a Mason jar!

Salad Dressing

3 Tbsp. raw almond butter
1 Tbsp. rice wine vinegar
1/8 tsp. salt
1 Tbsp. maple syrup
2 tsp. sesame oil
Combine all the ingredients in a tightly sealed container and shake vigorously until blended.

There are tons of other Mason jar salad ideas and recipes out there, and I would recommend experimenting with a bunch of them! All of these recipes are incredibly adaptable to whatever your taste buds prefer! I hope you find them as yummy and easy to prepare as I do!

Igniting Indigenous Intellectual Authority

BY DANIEL PISCOYA

For the UAS Whalesong

It is an old argument that says we are products of our time. We know it well. We take selfies, post them on Instagram, Twitter, or Facebook, while we tumble along on Tumblr, and snap our friends with Snapchat. We understand that these things shape both the way we think and who we are—in fact, we are used to thinking of these things this way.

It is a newer argument, however, that we are products of our place.

Thinking spatially is not as familiar to us as thinking temporally, yet it so obviously affects us as much if not more. The climate of Juneau gave rise, for example, to one of Southeast's staple fashion statements: the Xtra-tuff. Juneau's beautiful scenery and location have made it a tourist destination during the summer, which not only keeps Juneau on the map through increased summer revenue and jobs, but also shapes a great deal of what downtown Juneau is for four months out of the year. This school's location in the valley means that UAS is going to have a different community than the communities of downtown or Douglas—it is plain to see that.

Let us not pretend, then, that we can walk by totem poles and raven statues and be the same people we were, or understand the world in the same way we did. For, even while Alaskan Native things and people influence our daily lives through their presence on campus, we do not yet understand or respect these elements as we should. Thinking spatially as well as temporally has taken the ancient Greek aphorism “know thyself” and written it across the landscape. And we do not yet know enough about what and whom this landscape is made of.

In this spirit, the UAS Honors Program has titled its 2015 Spring Honors Symposium “Tlingit Raven Stories: Igniting Indigenous Intellectual Authority.” The Spring Honors Symposium hopes to foster greater understanding and respect towards native culture through a focus on reclaiming Tlingit Raven Stories as the rich literature that they are.

This focus is not a new development for the Honors Program, either. For the last two years of the Spring Honors Symposium, the topic of discussion has been linked to how we conceive of ourselves—our origins, our culture, and especially our outcast peoples and ways of thinking. Two years ago the subject was Transgenerational Suffering, Historical Violence, Memory and Repair, which was a series of talks on how trauma is transmitted in relationships and generations, and how we can approach healing. Last year's Symposium was on Pacific Peoples: Translocal Identities and Cultural Connections, which was about the ways in which Pacific island cultures traveled, navigated, interacted with others, and how they identify themselves today. This was particularly appropriate for Juneau because we not only have a large Pacific Islander population, but some accounts indicated that Pacific trade was probably more widespread than most historians thought—even reaching Southeast Alaska.

This year's Spring Honors Symposium brings both the multi-cultural heritage that we have inherited as a school and the need for increased respect of native culture into focus. The symposium hopes to dip into the rich “unique environmental and cultural histories of Southeast Alaska” that “situate UAS within unparalleled horizons shaped by the region's distinctive local, state, national, and global relation,” as it says on the Honors Program introduction. In keeping with this statement, the symposium will be hosted by Paul Marks, Ishmael Hope, and our very own Ernestine Hayes. They will be addressing concerns about how Tlingit Raven stories have been belittled and not taken seriously by both academia and the larger culture, and how this affects the intellectual authority of the Tlingit people and indigenous people in general.

The 2015 Honors Symposium is free and open to the public, and will be held in the Egan Lecture Hall on Friday, March 13, at 7 p.m.

March 9 - 22, 2015

UAS SPRING HONORS SYMPOSIUM 2015

Igniting
Indigenous
Intellectual
Authority

TLINGIT
RAVEN
STORIES

Ernestine Hayes
Paul Marks
Ishmael Hope

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UAS WHALESONG

UAS Student Featured Art



Katie Rueter's colorful "Sunset at Auke Bay".
(Photograph provided by Katie Rueter)



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— 50 Shades of Please Don't —

BY ALEXA CHERRY

For the UAS Whalesong

Esteemed Readers of the *Whalesong*: I have failed you. In an absolutely tragic turn of events, I apparently waited too long before going to view *50 Shades of Grey* and it has now left theaters in the Juneau area. However, worry not—while I was unable to see the movie, I did listen to part of an audiobook reading of the first book this past summer, so I do have some insight into the plot. My insight is further enhanced by reading several articles reviewing the film and its content. Thus, though in the past year I promised you a whimsical tale of my quest to see the movie and consequent experience of such, you will have to be satisfied with what follows: a recap of my encounters with the work of E.L. James, and critiques of such.

I mentioned that I listened to part of the audiobook (well, it was a woman with a foreign accent reading it aloud on YouTube, but that still counts right?), but I'll confess that I didn't get very far—not far enough to really see much of a problem with Christian Grey, the controlling and incredibly attractive male lead who starred as a vampire in his previous life. You know, his previous life as Edward Cullen, back when *50 Shades* was published on *fanfiction.net* as a Twilight fanfiction. (Trivia time: E.L. James's pen-name was Snowqueens Icedragon.) My primary problems were with the bland, unimaginative writing, and the way Anna

Steele seemed to turn into a quivering mass of Jell-O any time Christian entered a 50-foot radius of her body. One time he visits her at the store where she works and she actually almost forgets how to do her job. I have worked retail. No matter how attractive the customer, this does not happen. There are cameras and managers everywhere. She should have helped him out first and collapsed into a pile of goo later. However, I did notice that Christian does a few questionable things.

For one, after explicitly stating that he can't be in a relationship with Anna, he sends her rare and expensive first-edition copies of her favorite books for her birthday. This is weird and suspicious behavior from anyone whom you were romantically rejected by, and aren't even friends with really. This escalates when she gets drunk one night and calls him demanding to know why he sent her the books. Rather than answer her questions, Christian makes demands of his own regarding her location. When she won't tell him and hangs up, he shows up later anyway by tracking her cell phone signal. The book tries to disguise this as being noble and heroic—because she was drunk and in danger—making it seem like he rescued her. But if someone I barely knew tracked my cell phone signal after I made it clear that I wanted nothing to do with them, I would be more than a little skeeved out—no matter how hot they were. Looks aren't everything, kids. As my parents always say, “Ted Bundy was a very attractive man too.”

Ted Bundy, much like Christian Grey, was described as being charming, intelligent, and attractive. The difference between them seems to lie in how Bundy cut off his victims' heads and slept with their dead bodies, while Christian just makes Anna's head swim and beats her within an inch of her life (from what I can gather) before actually sleeping with her. But honestly, from what I hear, the badly portrayed BDSM kinkage in the movies isn't the worst part. What's worse is how Christian and Anna's relationship grows increasingly abusive—and not just in the bedroom. I'm not sure if this happens in the movie, but I glanced through a copy of the book at Costco the other day, and there's a scene near the end where Anna is talking to herself in her bedroom about how she wants to break up with Christian. Before Anna can get any further with this train of thought, it is revealed that Christian has been hiding in her house the whole time. He demands to know what on earth she thinks she's talking about and then forces himself on her. He tells her that he “owns” her because of the contract she signed (which I'm pretty sure was only exclusive to their sexual activities) and that a “good submissive does what their partner tells and wants them to do.” This mantra is repeated until Anna is literally afraid to do anything at all without Christian's approval. He even makes her get a job in his office so that he can “keep an eye on her” – because that's not creepy.

(Article continues on page 8)

— The Pros and Cons of Summer Classes —

BY ALEXA CHERRY

For the UAS Whalesong

Deciding whether or not to take summer classes is always complicated. It involves trying to balance a class schedule (even if it's only one class) with your work schedule, and that can be intimidating and challenging for some people. If you're still stuck on trying to decide, hopefully this article can help you figure it out.

The first thing you should look at is whether or not you need to take classes during the summer. If you have to take summer classes in order to graduate on time, then unfortunately you don't have much of a choice. If, on the other hand, you just want to take classes during the summer so that you have less to deal with during the school year, then that's up to you!

I've taken a couple of summer classes before, and from those experiences I would have to argue that one of the pros of summer classes is that they're more fun. You know those “fun” classes during the school year that everyone wants to take, like the “Zombies!” class and the one on the TV series *Lost* that UAS offered last fall? There are more of those classes offered during the summer. The class I took last summer was called “U.S. History Through Film,” and we met once a week to

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watch a movie about a period of or event in American history and discuss it. It was pretty rad and incidentally, that class is being offered again this summer! Other fun-sounding classes include Professor Amanda Sesko's “Human Sexuality Across Cultures” class, and Professor Sol Neely's English class regarding the advanced literary theme of “Laughter and Its Denuding Power.” I'm actually not sure what that one is about, but hey, at least it sounds more interesting than your average run-of-the-mill English class, right?

Summer classes are also more chill than school year classes. There tend to be fewer people, and the professors are aware that you would rather be out and about doing summertime things instead of in their classroom educating yourself. For that matter, the professors themselves would rather be out and about doing summertime things—so it balances out to create a more relaxed, less intensive class experience than what you might be used to during the school year. Of course, that's only from my point of view, but that's what I felt the general atmosphere was like.

One thing that I might list as a con here is that even though summer classes might feel more laid back, there's still the same amount of work to do as there would normally be. For “U.S. History Through Film” we still had to contribute to class discussions and write papers;

I also took a math class one summer that had just as much math as you might expect, including lectures and tests. So don't think that just because it's a class during the summer, you'll have to do less work. That's why it's important to make sure you can manage your summer job on top of a class load—otherwise you'll end up dropping out of classes and falling asleep at work, and your life will just be significantly harder than it needs to be overall.

And don't try to trick yourself by saying “Oh, I'm taking online classes, so it will be easy!” It's true that they generally don't have assigned meeting times, but the only easy thing about online classes is how easy they are to forget. You'll already be sweltering in the summer heat—such as it is—so don't subject yourself to sweltering in overdue projects and forgotten exam dates as well. If you're good at time management and are capable of staying on top of things, I would recommend it; but if you're like me and depend on Google Calendar to help keep your life together, maybe not so much.

Ultimately, the choice of whether or not to take classes this summer is up to you. I have done what I can; take my advice and run with it, young padawan. And always remember: if a dead ancestor doesn't appear in the sky to chastise you, it's probably not that bad of an idea.

Summer Study Abroad Opportunities

BY UAS EXCHANGE & STUDY ABROAD OFFICE

For the UAS Whalesong

See the world beyond the academic year! Spending time abroad allows for amazing discoveries, new adventures, and personal growth. Summer programs are ideal because they allow students to travel without sacrificing on-campus life—why not gain academic credit while exploring new cultures? Instead of sitting in a classroom studying French conjugations, why not spend a summer in France speaking with locals? UAS is affiliated with several study abroad programs that can meet the requirements of your major—any environmental studies students interested in the northern nature and environment of Finland, perhaps? Are there any art majors interested in spending the summer walking along the Riviera? Below you'll find samples of some programs/locations. If these don't fit your needs or interest, there are plenty more options.

ISEP Universidad Nacional Summer Program

Spanish Language, Costa Rican Culture, and Community Service

Spend six weeks exploring the culture and language of beautiful Costa Rica, known for its rich rainforests and ecological awareness. Universidad Nacional (UNA) offers a cultural immersion language program for students at all levels. Students live with host families and participate in exciting day-long excursions as well cultural workshops and field trips to traditional communities.

ISA Massey University in Palmerston, New Zealand

Environmental Sciences Expedition and Internship

Massey University offers a summer program exclusively to study abroad students. This program combines an ecologically-focused two-week tour of the North and South Islands with a four-week internship in agriculture, agribusiness, environmental science, and wildlife management.

API University of Westminster, England

International Business, Art, Science, and more!

If you're interested in studying media arts and design, international business, or liberal arts, sciences, and urban studies, then you should look into applying for school this summer in London!



(Photo provided by UAS Exchanges & Study Abroad office)

AHA International French Language

French Language

The intensive summer language program is perfect for you to learn or improve your French language skills over the course of a few weeks.

Experience a new way of life, form lifelong friendships, expand your worldview, maybe learn a language, and travel. The benefits of studying abroad are endless. Where would you like to go? Contact Marsha Squires at for more information.

50 SHADES OF PLEASE DON'T

Continued from page 7

Problem is piled upon problem as the plot reveals that the reason Christian is an unholy abusive stalker with a control freak complex is because he has "Problematic White Male Protagonist with a Tortured Past Syndrome." This is a trope seen in many movies and novels; the male lead has problematic and sometimes just plain bad behaviors, but upon being asked, "What the hell is wrong with you?!" it is discovered that something sad happened to them before the events of the main story. Inevitably, this softens the audience's attitude towards them, if not causing them to excuse his actions entirely. In Christian's case, he was sexually abused and manipulated by an older woman in his youth. In adulthood, this translated to a power complex where he has an obsessive need to always be in control, because otherwise he has traumatic flashbacks to a time when he had no control. Of course! That excuses the way he ignores Anna's safeword and flips out if she so much as drives a car he hasn't chosen for her.

This is where I like to apply the "Loki Argument." Loki, specifically the one from the Marvel *Avengers* movie franchise, has a lot of problems—arguably, more than Christian Grey. His life sucked to the point where he attempted world domination in order to regain some footing. Don't get me wrong! I love the character of Loki, and even sympathize with him on some points. But importantly, in both real life and fiction, the events of the past do not excuse your actions of the present. So Loki was rejected by his entire

family—that doesn't mean he gets to just hare off and commit genocide. That's wrong and it doesn't solve anything. Translate this to our current topic—how does Christian exerting the exact same behaviors he so hated when he was younger on Anna fix what happened to him? It doesn't, that's how.

There have been several other articles written about this movie and its problematic subject matter. I recommend Rosie Waterland's "Rosie Reviews: Fifty Shades of Grey" and Dawn Hawins's "Truth about 'Fifty Shades of Grey.'" They are a good read if you want to know more about the relational and emotional abuse that goes on in this film, and why it was a terrible idea to show the film on Valentine's Day when it could easily be mistaken as a portrayal of a healthy relationship with a kinky twist. As for me, I think I'll leave this subject here for now, with a final comment from a blog post I saw somewhere: "if Christian Grey was just some guy living in a trailer instead of a rich businessman, *50 Shades of Grey* would be an episode of the procedural crime show *Criminal Minds* instead of a romance flick."

Anna was a fictional character trapped by bad writing and a worse plot. The rest of us are not as unfortunate! If you or someone you know is currently experiencing emotional or physical abuse, or even if you just want someone to talk to, you can always make a free appointment with one of the counselors on campus by calling 796-6000 or swinging by the SRC desk.

Some Insight: Lingít Yoo Xh'atángi

BY JASMINE MATTSON-WOLFF, Kóot Xheech

For the UAS Whalesong

To start off I have a question for you all, do you know what the little room right next to Spike's is? I'd like you to think about it and see if you know, we'll revisit this question later in the article.

What I'm here to talk with you about and share with you, is one of the top 3 things in my life; something that is part of who I am, who you are, and who we all are. Do you live in Juneau? Are you going to school here at UAS? Maybe you are from somewhere else in Southeast and just visiting. That's okay. Keep on reading because this article is directly related to you. We are all living on Lingít Aaní, the language of our people is Lingít and, I think, it's only right that everyone knows about our language and learns it.

For those of you who aren't familiar with Alaskan history, in the last few hundred years the indigenous peoples of Alaska have been disregarded, abused, and taken over by European colonization. The colonizers coming to Alaska didn't care about the people who had already inhabited the land for thousands of years, like the Tlingit, Haida, Tsimshian, Aleut, and Yup'ik. Their interests were in the resources that Alaska had, such as furs, gold, and later on oil and salmon. When Russia claimed Alaska as its territory, none of the Nations of Alaska were involved with the claim. To put this into perspective, it would be like the indigenous nations of Alaska going to England, taking over, and claiming the country as their territory without any consent from that nation's people. Does that sound ethical to you?

Many Alaska Native languages and cultures were lost during this colonialization. They were punished for participating in any cultural ways of life. Tlingit people here in Southeast were put in boarding schools; children were abused, punished, and beat when they were caught speaking their language. Soon, the language inevitably drifted away and European dominance ruled Lingít Aaní. Fast forward to now. Right now, at this moment, there are probably about 150-200 Tlingit speakers, 4 Haida speakers, and maybe 12-15 Tsimshian speakers. There has been so much damage done to the indigenous people of Alaska. It's hard to rebuild the strength and courage to learn again after being punished for who you are for so long. But right now, there are groups all over Alaska working on Language Revitalization. Here in Juneau the main focus is Tlingit, but there are people working to get more Haida and Tsimshian recognition and learning resources available.

So, that room next to Spike's? That's the Language Lab. This is the place where anyone can come and feel safe asking questions, practice the language, or just be exposed to it. The Language Lab is predominately Tlingit, but that doesn't mean you aren't welcome if you are studying Latin or Spanish. Maybe you aren't even studying a language and are just interested—come on in and talk about it. Maybe you are interested in Tlingit but don't want to come to the Language Lab. That's okay because there are a few other options for you to check out and get involved. The Tlingit Language Learners group meets at the downtown library from 6-7 p.m. on Monday nights and anyone can attend, regardless of their level of experience with the language. Tlingit Family Time at Yaakhoosgé Daakahídi (the alternative high school that neighbors Juneau Douglas High School downtown) is on Saturdays from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to this as well! Bring your kids, bring a group of friends, go learn and be exposed to some language. Along with those two weekly events you should also check out <http://tlingitlanguage.com/> and Xh'unei Lance Twitchell's YouTube page. Both are phenomenal resources where you can learn more about what's going on in the Tlingit Language learning community.

Why is all of this so important? Why must we teach Tlingit in our schools and bring it back into our everyday lives? Think about it this way: as our indigenous languages are dying, we are too. Our identities are fading away with our languages. There is so much medicinal help and self-realization that happens when you take the time to incorporate languages like Tlingit, Haida, or Tsimshian into your life. You learn more about the people around you and the land you are living on. I went to an event recently and it was amazing; one of the things that really stuck with me from it was getting rid of traditions. Why? Because people don't know what they are doing when they take part in traditions. They are just doing it because that is what has been expected to be done for years upon years. We need to expose ourselves to living through our cultures and our languages in the moment. We need to learn our ancestor's way of life, learn to speak the words they did, communicate with



Professor Xh'unei Lance Twitchell goes through an interactive demonstration with students on the Tlingit names for various body parts.

(Photo by Darin Donohue)

the Lingít Aaní as they did, and work hard to keep ourselves alive. What do you think is easier: learning to sing and dance as a group for an annual event or learning a language as a group? Well, I can tell you that you're going to learn to sing and dance a lot faster. But if you take the time to also learn the language, that will be a value that will help you through the rest of your life and give a lot more meaning behind why you are dancing. That's not to say learning to sing and dance isn't good, but if you immerse yourself in the language and the culture, it will be much more fulfilling. Learning languages like Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian will help you when you are feeling upset or hopeless, and foster happiness, wholeness, and joy.

I'm going to leave you with something to think about as you decide if you're going to run up to the Language Lab right now or not. It's pretty difficult to explain what the true value is in learning a heritage language, like Tlingit, Haida, or Tsimshian, because there is no way to answer to a degree that is accurate in English. There just aren't words in English that have the ability to answer something like that when the English words don't possess the quality necessary to truly answer. So if you really want to know, join us in this journey throughout Alaska in revitalizing our languages and ourselves—yee gu.aa yáxh x'wán.

— *Jupiter Ascending*: Space Spoilers —

BY ALEXA CHERRY

For the UAS Whalesong

[In reference to the title, there are spoilers ahead. Proceed with caution and at your own risk!]

It's difficult to find things to say about *Jupiter Ascending* that have not already been said. Allow me to begin by stating this: *Jupiter Ascending* is a good movie. However, it is also a cheesy movie—one with a \$100 million budget and no apologies to make to anyone. And this is wonderful. The way I imagine this movie came into creation is that the people with the budget gently ushered a lot of 14-year-old female sci-fi buffs into a room, said "Give us your film ideas," did some nodding and said "Well, we have to spend all of this money somehow."

The reason I say 14-year-old girls came up with this movie is because it features many hallmarks of a self-insert space novel written by a female of that age group. The main character is named Jupiter Jones, after the will of her astronomy nerd-father who wouldn't have gotten his way in this matter had he not met his unfortunate demise while trying to fight armed burglars for his telescope. This opening scene serves to set expectations for the rest of the movie. Jupiter Jones is extremely pretty with an extremely average life. She gets up at 4:45 every morning to clean other people's homes, and she hates her life until she is absconded with by a half-albino, part-dog space marine with space roller-skates. Yes. You heard me. Space roller-skates. Jupiter Jones then spends the rest of the movie being proposed to, wheezed at, and fawned over by a variety of different men, while insisting that all she wants is to go back to her life of cleaning toilets and being average.

But why does all this happen to the average Jupiter

Jones? Well, it's because she's the space reincarnation of the mother of 3 very dysfunctional space children. This means that Jupiter is the heir to this space mom's estate, which naturally ticks her children—the previous heritors—off. We then proceed to have 3 rapid fire space children encounters, the first of which serves little to no purpose besides explaining that everyone is basically a space vampire. The second encounter is with the space mom's youngest son, who somehow manages to talk Jupiter Jones into marrying him – but it's cool, it's not like your Earth marriages, it's just a business deal. Don't worry about why I want to get married to my reincarnated mother, just do it. This seems strange enough, but then we drag a talented actor like Eddie Redmayne into the mix. Redmayne plays the untalented, eldest space child, a wonderfully complex character from his name (Balem Abrasax and no, I didn't sneeze) to his incredibly long shirtsleeves, to the not-so-subtly incestuous overtones he implies in his relationship with his mother. Not that she was a part of it. From the sound of things, the Abrasax mom space-ollied out in little more than a concentrated effort to get away from her dysfunctional children, and I salute her for it. Now, back to Jupiter Jones and how she falls head-over-heels for roller-skating dog-boy, right after he saves her and goes through the struggle of getting her out of the paper hospital gown she was wearing and back into her skin-tight skinny jeans while she was unconscious.

I'll be straight with you, when Channing Tatum showed up playing the part of the gritty Canis (aka Caine), I rolled my eyes. "Oh no," I thought, "another scruffy gritty anti-hero with loads of man-pain." And to his credit, he tried. He tried hard. He even spent 30 minutes of screen-time being shirtless for no apparent reason. The peak of his efforts comes at about the halfway point

in the movie, when he attempts to explain to Jupiter that he has an unfortunate glitch in his genetic code that sometimes compels him to inexplicably tear out peoples' throats and how this creates a real problem in his day-to-day life. Jupiter responds by gazing up at him with sparkling eyes and stating: "There's a glitch in my genetic code, too. It makes me always fall in love with people who don't love me back." At this point, you can physically see Caine give up any attempt at being the stereotypical gritty, male lead. He just levels his gaze at the ceiling (in lieu of looking straight into the camera), sighs deeply, and leaves the room—but not before Jupiter can explain to him that they should be together because, "I love dogs! I've always loved dogs!"

You really just need to go see *Jupiter Ascending* for yourself. Nothing I say can prepare you for the sheer amount of beauty involved in the design of everything; from the ships to the costumes, to the planet Jupiter itself. Nothing I say can prepare you for how all of this beauty is interrupted by the absurdity of watching Channing Tatum space roller-skate around and away from shrieking spaceships, while Chicago is destroyed in their wake and no one says anything. There are crop circles, there's an Asian girl with an incredible hairstyle, there's shrieking at couches, a sense of superiority to be gained if you've never been stung by a bee, and a lot of swimming pools. There's also Sean Bean, forever to be known as Sean Bee after his portrayal in this film of a gritty, half-bee space marine.

I promise you, to see this movie will be doing yourself a favor. You'll get a laugh you didn't know you needed, and the rest of the theater will be right there laughing along with you. Go see it—in the words of Balem Abrasax (though not quite as shrieky and breathy), "*Now.*"

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Philosophical Traditions: Kierkegaard's Knight of Faith

BY DANIEL PISCOYA

For the UAS Whalesong

It was well said, once, that “The morbid logician seeks to make everything lucid, and succeeds in making everything mysterious. The mystic allows one thing to be mysterious, and everything else becomes lucid.” Put succinctly, “man can understand everything by the help of what he does not understand” (G.K. Chesterton). Like a baby's mobile, if you pick up life by the right mystery, everything else falls into place.

For Soren Kierkegaard, a Danish philosopher notable both for his depth of contribution to existential thought and his awesome hair, the mystery is the story of Abraham and Isaac.

As many of you may recall, the story of Abraham and Isaac, as told in the book of Genesis, chapter twenty-two, is the one where God asks Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, who is his only son and heir. Abraham obliges, going so far as to bind Isaac, place him on an altar, and raise the sacrificial knife . . . before an angel stops him. The angel tells him that he has passed the test, and to sacrifice a ram instead of Isaac (much to Isaac's relief).

“Abraham I cannot understand,” says the melancholic Dane with the awesome hair, for “the ethical as such is the universal, and as the universal it applies to everyone,” and “Abraham's relation to Isaac, ethically speaking, is quite simply expressed by saying that a father shall love his son more dearly than himself,” and yet Abraham is asked to kill his son.

Kierkegaard's mystery is found when he considers it from Abraham's perspective as Abraham is leading his son to the mountain upon which he will sacrifice him. From Abraham's perspective, there are two choices: obeying the command of God, or obeying his natural fatherly love for Isaac.

This choice, however, does not seem, on the surface, to be a new one, or even a particularly strange one. Kierkegaard uses the Greek myth of Agamemnon, who was told by the gods that he must sacrifice his daughter Iphigenia in order to regain favorable sailing winds. Kierkegaard calls Agamemnon a tragic hero: he must “heroically bring this sacrifice . . . for the welfare of all.” When, perhaps, “a son forgets his duty, when the state entrusts the sword of judgment to the father, when the laws demand punishment from the father's hand, then the father must heroically forget that the guilty one is his son.” This tragic hero must become infinitely resigned to his



A sketch of Soren Kierkegaard—a Danish philosopher notable both for his depth of contribution to existential thought and his awesome hair—by Niels Christian Kierkegaard.

(Photograph provided through Wikimedia Commons) fate; he becomes what Kierkegaard calls the Knight of Infinite Resignation.

But Abraham is not a tragic hero when he is asked to kill his son. He is not a Knight of Infinite Resignation. Kierkegaard explains the difference between the tragic hero and Abraham: “The tragic hero is still within the ethical . . . Abraham's situation is different . . . it is not to save a nation . . . it is not to appease angry gods.” Abraham, if he were to sacrifice Isaac, does not do it for the greater good. In fact, because Isaac was the son through

which Abraham's covenant with his God was to be fulfilled, Abraham stands, not to save a nation, but to kill it. “Insofar as the universal was present, it was cryptically in Isaac. . . and must cry out with Isaac's mouth: Do not do this, you are destroying everything.” Kierkegaard further notes:

. . . as a rule, what tempts a person is something that will hold him back from doing his duty, but here the temptation is the ethical itself, which will hold him back from doing God's will. But what is duty? Duty is simply the expression of God's will.

Abraham chooses to submit to the command to sacrifice Isaac because he believes there is a telos (an end, a purpose) behind the murder that overrides the ethical obligation not to do it, namely, that God told him to do it.

In this way, Kierkegaard describes the Knight of Faith—over and above the Knight of Infinite Resignation or tragic hero—as a paradox:

. . . although Abraham arouses my admiration, he also appalls me . . . the tragic hero gives up the certain for the even more certain . . . the tragic hero needs and demands tears, and where is the envious eye so arid that it could not weep with Agamemnon, but where is the soul so gone astray that it has the audacity to weep for Abraham? . . . his justification is the paradoxical.

Abraham, as a Kierkegaardian Knight of Faith, “walks the narrow road of faith [and] has no one to advise him—no one who understands him.” He is not being a hero, he is being something more. He is proving his faithfulness through an agonizing paradox. He receives no comfort, even in sorrow, for he has no one to be sad with. No one understands him, and in fact, he does not understand himself. His sacrifice is entirely personal.

Kierkegaard concludes: “either Abraham was a murderer every minute or we stand before a paradox that is higher than all meditations. The story of Abraham contains, then, a teleological suspension of the ethical . . . This is the paradox, which cannot be mediated.”

Works Cited

Chesterton, G. K. *Orthodoxy*, 1908. Web.
De Silentio, Johannes, and Soren Kierkegaard. *Fear and Trembling*, 1843. Web.

DO YOU WANT TO WRITE FOR THE WHALESONG?

Send your articles to us at whalesong@uas.alaska.edu and you could be published in the next issue of the school's newspaper!

— Springing into Temporary Freedom —

BY ALEXA CHERRY

For the UAS Whalesong

Spring break is coming up, and as I understand it from the myriad of procedural cop shows I've seen, this is a time to spend far away from Alaska in some warm, tropical climate full of swimsuits and alcohol. I have yet to spend a spring break partying hard with comrades on the beaches of Miami, but who knows—my time could yet come. In the meantime, I will use my past experience of spring breaks to educate those of you in your freshman year on what to expect.

The first thing I'll say about spring break is that the "break" part is largely a lie. Of course it depends on your degree, and certainly there is no class, but plenty of professors assign homework and project due dates directly after spring break ends, meaning that you have to work on them during break or your grade might be in jeopardy. I don't say this to put a damper on your excitement or anything – I just want to point out that you should be very keenly aware of when things are due for every class you have, so you can make sure to have them done before spring break or be sure to set aside time for working on them during break. After all, it's better to know beforehand than to get a "by the way,

remember this project worth 40% of your grade!" email from your professor right before you hop on the plane to go to Cabo Cabo for the next week.

Speaking of Cabo Cabo, lots of people choose to travel somewhere for spring break—whether it's to lounge on a tropical island beach, to visit Sitka and see some whales, or just to head back home for a week. This is a great idea—just make sure that you plan, purchase, and reserve everything well ahead of time! It's supposed to be a break, not a panicked attempt to find a place to stay because the only hotel in the area is already booked (a more likely possibility than you might think). Having some idea of what you want to do on your trip is good too. If you're heading home or going to the beach, then your plans might not extend further than lying around and doing nothing all break, which is totally fine and plausible. If you're traveling somewhere completely new, however, it might be worth it to take some time and look into the activities available to you and your crew (assuming you're going with a crew). That way, once you get there you won't immediately be trapped in the loop of "What do you want to do?" and "I don't know, what do you want to do?" or perhaps worse, have everyone wanting to do all kinds of different things to the point where you might as well not have come together at all.

For some people, leaving during spring break is not really an option. That's okay too—it's more likely than not that at least a few of your friends will stay at school as well, and then you can spend the break catching up on homework while going on adventures with said friends during the time you would otherwise be spending in class. Some of these adventures involve leaving campus—playing board games at GonZos, exploring downtown, going on the Mt. Roberts Tram—and some of them don't, for those of you who would prefer to make blanket forts and live out of them for three days, emerging briefly and rarely to acquire more food and commune with nature as you finally finish marathoning that TV show that midterms got in the way of you completing.

Homework, trips, and TV marathons aside, spring break is a time when you really should take a break, if you can. Catch up on all the sleep you've been missing, take longer showers, go shopping for ingredients and make yourself real food (the Raisin Bran commercials may insist that it's healthy, but eating exclusively Raisin Bran is probably not good for You on some level). Give yourself the chance to rest and recuperate! After all, spring break is followed fairly quickly by finals and then by move-out, so you're going to need all the rest you can get.

Want to read more?

Find previous issues of the
Whalesong online at:

www.uas.alaska.edu/juneau/activities/whalesong/

CAMPUS CALENDAR

OFF CAMPUS

MONDAY, MAR. 9

Taku Toastmasters Club, 12:05 p.m., Federal Building. Improve your public speaking skills in a supportive environment. Newcomers welcome! Meetings are held in Room 541 of the Federal Building. For more information, contact Velja at 907-321-4988.

Tlingit Language Learner's Group, 6 p.m., Downtown Juneau Public Library. Interested in learning the Tlingit language? This group, run by Tlingit language learners, is free and open to everyone in the community, regardless of language experience. We meet Mondays at the downtown Juneau Public Library from 6-7 p.m. For more information, email tlingitlearners@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 11

Write For Your Life, 10 a.m., Mendenhall

Valley Library. The "Write For Your Life" group meets from 10-11 a.m. every Wednesday to share journal entries, memoir, letters, or poetry. For more information, contact Dixie at 907-789-2068.

A.L.I.C.E Active Threat Response Training, 5:30 p.m., Centennial Hall. During this training you will learn proactive survival strategies and best practices to be used during the gap that exists between the time a violent threat begins and when law enforcement arrives on the scene. If you participate in events or work in public places like schools, malls, parks, fairs, or campgrounds having these skills could help reduce victims or even save lives without increasing risk to yourself. It is indeed sad that the reality of the world we live in today requires a plan and training to respond to this type of threat, but it is a reality and each of us can make a difference if we choose to be empowered. First come first serve. For more information call Tom Mattice at 907-586-0419 or Michelle Brown at 907-586-0371

THURSDAY, MAR. 12

Community Gaming Night, 5:30 p.m., Udder Culture. Shouldn't Juneau have a community gaming group? Of course! Now we do! This is an open video game group that gets together every week at Udder Culture. We play a variety of video games and are open to playing on any platform (Wii, PS3, PS4, Xbox360, Xbox One, etc.). Be sure to stop by and enjoy great food and company at the Udder Culture as well! All ages are welcome! (If you are a minor you will need to get a parent's permission to play, because we play a lot of games rated "M") Email Greg Frank for more information at greg.r.frank@gmail.com.

FRIDAY, MAR. 13

Organ Concert, 12 p.m., State Office Building Atrium. Concerts on the Kimball Theatre Organ at the State Office Building take place most Fridays during the noon hour.

Music: Dan Hopson Classical Guitar LIVE, 7 p.m., the Gold Room at the Baranof Hotel. For

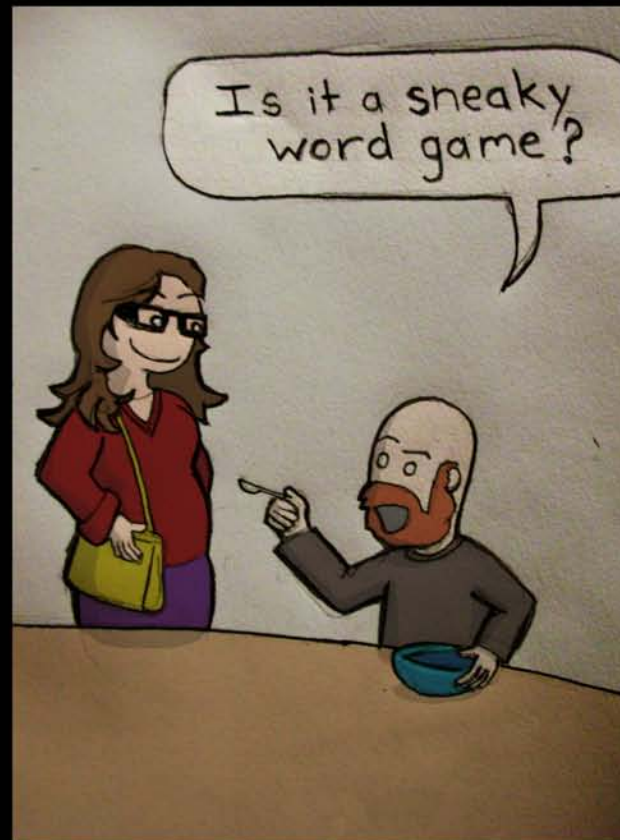
more information, call 907-586-2660.

The Odd Couple, 7:30 p.m., Perseverance Theatre. A classic American comedy from the master of the form, Neil Simon. This 1965 Tony Award winner is the original play behind the TV phenomenon! Laugh at the classic buddy tale of the slovenly Oscar and the uptight Felix as they try and manage living together. Surprisingly poignant and side-splittingly funny, Neil Simon's witty dialogue, vibrant characters, and hilarious one-liners have made him one of the most produced playwrights of the twentieth century! With some of the best jokes ever told about men living together, *The Odd Couple* will keep you in stitches as we look back at these men from another era and ask ourselves: has that much really changed?

SATURDAY, MAR. 14

Music: Dan Hopson Classical Guitar LIVE, 7 p.m., the Gold Room at the Baranof Hotel. For more information, call 907-586-2660.

Alaska Robotics



Haiku Trap

CAMPUS CALENDAR

ON CAMPUS

MONDAY, MAR. 9

Summer 2015 Open Registration Begins, All Day, UAS. Check out the Summer 2015 class schedule to see if there are any classes being offered that you may need or want to take! For more information send an email to registrar@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6255.

Open Gym: Dodgeball, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Ready to flash-back to grade school? Head over to drop-in dodgeball. It's fast, it's fun, and it's at the REC. For more information send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call the REC Center staff at 796-6100.

Zumba, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Party yourself into shape at the REC! Feel the music, let loose, and dance the pounds and inches off! No experience is necessary. For more information send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

TUESDAY, MAR. 10

Student Government Spring 2015 Meetings, 8:30 a.m., Glacier View Room. Get Involved! Got questions regarding UAS? Come check out a Student Government Meeting. UAS Student Government, the official student government of the University of Alaska Southeast, is responsible for representing student interests to the college administration and for facilitating the organization of a broad range of student committees that work to address issues and concerns and promote services that enhance students' experience at UAS. A significant responsibility of the UAS Student Government is to initiate and act upon legislation including proposals to appropriate USUAS-JC Funds as well as serving on at least two USUAS-JC standing committees. For more information send an email to jypres@uas.alaska.edu.

Open Gym: Basketball, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Join your friends or make friends playing basketball at the REC. All skill levels welcome! For more information send
March 9 - 22, 2015

an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 11

Open Gym: Volleyball, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Join your friends or make friends playing volleyball at the REC. All skill levels welcome! For more information send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

Zumba, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Party yourself into shape at the REC! Feel the music, let loose, and dance the pounds and inches off! No experience is necessary. For more information send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

Ultimate Frisbee, 9 p.m., Dimond Park Fieldhouse. Join us at the Dimond Park Fieldhouse for a pick-up game of Ultimate. No experience necessary! Just be prepared to have fun! For more information send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

THURSDAY, MAR. 12

Open Gym: Soccer, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Join your friends or make friends playing soccer at the REC. A fast paced, fun sport. All skill levels welcome! For more information send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

Circuit Training, 7 p.m., Recreation Center. Join us for full body conditioning or resistance training using high-intensity aerobics. We'll target strength building and muscular endurance. An exercise "circuit" is one completion of all prescribed exercises in the program. When one circuit is complete, one begins the first exercise again for the next circuit. For more information send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

FRIDAY, MAR. 13

Food Sovereignty Fridays, 1 p.m., Native & Rural Student Center. The NRSC invites UAS Students, Staff, and Faculty to stop by

and sample some of the most amazing food harvested from around our wonderful State! NRSC Staff and Guests will share the significance and process of harvesting! See you at the NRSC! For more information send an email to nrsc@uas.alaska.edu or call 796-6100.

2015 Honors Symposium, 5 p.m., Egan Lecture Hall. Tlingit Raven Stories presented by Ernestine Hayes, Paul Marks, and Ishmael Hope. For more information contact 796-6411.

SATURDAY, MAR. 14

REC Closure, All Day, Recreation Center. The REC Center will be closed, for the joint use by the Alaska Army National Guard. For more information send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

SUNDAY, MAR. 15

REC Closure, All Day, Recreation Center. The REC Center will be closed, for the joint use by the Alaska Army National Guard. For more information send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

MONDAY, MAR. 16

Spring Break, All Day, UAS. Spring break for students. Campus is still open.

REC Reduced Hours, All Day, Recreation Center. The REC has reduced hours during spring break (Mar. 16-20) and will only be open 11 a.m.-8 p.m.. For more information send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

TUESDAY, MAR. 17

Spring Break, All Day, UAS. Spring break for students. Campus is still open.

REC Reduced Hours, All Day, Recreation Center. The REC has reduced hours during spring break (Mar. 16-20) and will only be open 11 a.m.-8 p.m.. For more information send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

Student Government Spring 2015 Meetings, 8:30 a.m., Glacier View Room.

Get Involved! Got questions regarding UAS? Come check out a Student Government Meeting. UAS Student Government, the official student government of the University of Alaska Southeast, is responsible for representing student interests to the college administration and for facilitating the organization of a broad range of student committees that work to address issues and concerns and promote services that enhance students' experience at UAS. A significant responsibility of the UAS Student Government is to initiate and act upon legislation including proposals to appropriate USUAS-JC Funds as well as serving on at least two USUAS-JC standing committees. For more information send an email to jypres@uas.alaska.edu.

WEDNESDAY, MAR. 18

Spring Break, All Day, UAS. Spring break for students. Campus is still open.

REC Reduced Hours, All Day, Recreation Center. The REC has reduced hours during spring break (Mar. 16-20) and will only be open 11 a.m.-8 p.m.. For more information send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

Ultimate Frisbee, 9 p.m., Dimond Park Fieldhouse. Join us at the Dimond Park Fieldhouse for a pick-up game of Ultimate. No experience necessary! Just be prepared to have fun! For more information send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

THURSDAY, MAR. 19

Spring Break, All Day, UAS. Spring break for students. Campus is still open.

REC Reduced Hours, All Day, Recreation Center. The REC has reduced hours during spring break (Mar. 16-20) and will only be open 11 a.m.-8 p.m.. For more information send an email to rec_center@uas.alaska.edu or call the REC Center staff at 796-6544.

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